

Virginia Water Resources Workshop



GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS FOR WATER SUPPLY PLANNING

Presented by:

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Virginia Department of Environmental Quality



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DEQ Goals

- Provide adequate, reliable, and safe water to citizens in a way that balances the need for environmental protection and provides for future growth
- Establish a comprehensive and continuous planning process for the wise use of our water resources



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DEQ Goals

- Create a water planning partnership among state, local, and regional interests
- Increase public involvement—and support—in resource decisions



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DEQ Goals

- Improve our understanding of local water needs for the next 30 years or more
- Improve our understanding of the resource and how it can be sustained in the future



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DEQ Goals

- Encourage regional planning for water supplies
- Encourage use of alternative sources

DEQ Expectations

- Maximize permit processing efficiency
- Maximize preparedness for drought
- Maximize water use efficiency where needed

Implementation Roles – Local Governments

- Localities are expected to take the lead role in planning for their needs

Implementation Roles - DEQ

- Provide policy guidance, resource information, staff technical assistance, and financial aid
- Facilitate coordination of agency input on local and regional plans
- Serve as an information clearinghouse for appropriate state data, model planning approaches, and program progress

Implementation Roles - DEQ

- The state will make a determination on the consistency of these local and regional plans with the regulation



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Assistance Available

- \$300,000 (FY 2006) for local and regional technical assistance grants
- Staff for ground water technical assistance
 - 2 positions to provide ground water technical assistance and to develop ground water data for use in local and regional planning efforts
- Staff to provide planning assistance (7 positions)

Make the Most of the Planning Process

- Embrace the process with an open mind—without historic preconceptions
- Actively involve the public
- Seriously evaluate regional solutions

Plan for the Permit

- Choose the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative
- Be realistic in estimating future needs



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How Can This Help You?

- Putting in the work up front in planning will yield benefits at permit time



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How Can This Help You?

- Opportunity to save time in the permit process
- Opportunity to save money



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How Else Can This Help You?

- Opportunity to obtain state support for project with other states and in federal permit process

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